

# POTOSI JOURNAL

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Petitions have been filed to hang up under the referendum all the important legislation enacted by the last General Assembly, the expenses of which came to nearly \$300,000. The submission of these acts to the people will cost about \$200,000. So it is evident that under the present system, the laws that pass both through the Legislature and referendum are costing the people high. No bill for the regulation of social conditions ever satisfied everyone. It is also true that one of the easiest things to accomplish is to get names to a petition—any petition. Still, while we can always find a limited percentage of the voters who would give any and all laws the referendum test, a large majority of the people are content to allow the acts of the Legislature to become operative without reference. A political party always makes known in advance of an election the trend of laws it will endeavor to put in force if placed in power. This was notably the case in Missouri last year when the Republican party stated its policy. The legislation which has been the outgrowth of the result of the last general election, it may be said, has already stood the test of popular approval in a way that left no doubt as to the mind of the people. But the disgruntled minor fraction has the power, rather recklessly given by the state constitution, to compel another reference. The initiative and referendum power belong to the people, a safeguard not to be lightly surrendered; but in this state its provisions are such that make it a club in the hands of any minor fraction of the people which is dissatisfied with the laws framed and enacted at the will of the preponderant mass of the electorate. The Missouri Democracy is at this moment constituting a sacred public power, which should be invoked only on occasions of greatest importance to the whole people to party politics to get a petty revenge on the party that has supplanted it in the confidence of the people.

Europe don't wanna settle down to work again. We have coddled and fed 'em over there until they've got the idea that we do it because we like it.

When Wilson was president, J. P. Morgan simply sent his office boy to the White House with his orders. Now, however, J. P. calls there personally and offers his advice. Since he must have his finger in the pie, we like his latter method of sticking it in best. It has at least an element of respect and decency.

For the edification of the Democratic papers which have so roundly abused Governor Hyde for "legislating the Democratic circuit judges out of their offices to which the people had elected them," we point out that the Governor has in all but one instance just appointed these Democratic judges, nine teen of them, count 'em, nine teen, to serve in the newly rearranged districts for their full elective terms. Of course these papers will now grumblingly say that in this action the Governor has done up more than was right and decent; but just the same their anticipatory view of the course they had expected him to follow—supplants all the Democratic judges with Republican appointees, was taken through Democratic partisan glasses, damning him in advance in the expectation that he would fill these vacancies as a governor of their own political faith would have filled them in the same instances, to the utter exclusion of all Republicans. In a close observance of Missouri politics, covering a period of fifty years, we can recall no act of even small magnanimity of the Democrats toward their Republican opponents where the possession of a public office was concerned, to say nothing of handing them nineteen nice fat jobs all at once.

U. S. Senator Pat Harrison (Dem.) of Mississippi took the floor of the Senate the other day and belabored the Harding administration to the edification of his fellow Democratic members of that body. Doubtless the gentleman from Mississippi is a very pleasant man, otherwise his name couldn't be Pat; and what he said was said strictly in a partisan sense, otherwise it couldn't apply sensibly to the party now in power at Washington. What the Senator found fault with principally was the party's handling of the wreckage in our national affairs that has fallen to it as an heritage of eight years of Wilsonism. While he didn't put it that way exactly, he nevertheless, in finding fault with the speed the Republican party was showing in accomplishing its promised cleanup, he leaves an inference that the opportunity and occasion for the reform was there good and plenty. If he convinced anyone that the Republican party was derelict in the fulfillment of its promises already, then he attributes to that party miraculous powers it never laid claim to. The mighty mischief resulting from eight years of Wilsonian inefficiency and rapacity could not be said to be by President Harding in three short months, with the reconstruction of the whole government to effect upon a better basis of efficiency and economy than it was when he received it, without the aid of the genius of the wonderful Lusk. It is true former Postmaster General Burleson gave us some "miraculous" postal service during the Wilson regime, but the present administration will be content probably to perform along the lines of highest human efficiency merely. The criticism too of Senator Harrison that the Republican party has not as yet given us a reduction in federal taxes comes in very poor grace from a Democrat, very, when we recall that at its expiring effort the Wilson administration undertook to boost our government expenditures about two billions above what the Republicans held them down to. And there is still a constant stream of bills coming in for multitudinous "dead horses" for which the Wilson administration negotiated and passed on to the Harding administration to pay. The wonder is not that the Republicans have not yet reduced the taxes, but that they are finding the money to liquidate the deficiency bills of the Democrats without raising the taxes or selling bonds.

It is reported that Uncle Sam will collect a quarter of a million dollars or so in taxes from the receipts of the approaching Dempsey-Carpentier fight. The ringside seats for this scrap are selling as high as \$50. This suggests a way for the payment of the national debt without worrying the already overburdened general taxpayer. Every community might have its fight shows freely and the Liberty bonds paid off by those who are so eager to indicate they are in that class to which one is born every minute.

President Harding is said to have completed his plans for the world's peace. He gives no indication that he will take a trip to Europe and hobnob with kings and potentates, to say nothing of snoozing in the royal bays at Buckingham, to put them across however, and incidentally run up an expense bill of a couple millions or so with which to stick the taxpayer.

Well, Jim Bradshaw is out, but Governor Hyde had to rap him over the knuckles with a police club before he would let go, and a heartrending groan from Jim vibrated throughout the state as he fell back from the pie counter where he had glued himself for twenty long fat years. Ain't the Republicans awful, Susan?

## GREEK QUEEN AIDS REFUGEES

Sophie Gets Cabinet to Raise \$75,000 to Help Destitute From Caucasus.

## THEIR CONDITION DESPERATE

Twenty Thousand Huddled Together in Barracks Not Intended to Hold Half That Number—Disease Takes 1,000 in Month.

Saloniki.—Queen Sophie of Greece, head of the Greek Red Cross, recently summoned members of the Greek cabinet to the palace and demanded that the government take steps to prevent the distress of 20,000 Greek refugees from the Caucasus, now in barracks on the hills of Kalamaria, near Saloniki, from becoming a national disgrace.

In consequence of her action 1,000,000 drachmas (equivalent to about \$75,000 at present rates of exchange) were collected for the benefit of the refugees and 15 additional physicians were sent to Saloniki.

The miserable condition of the refugees had been reported to the queen by Colonel Odilia, the American Red Cross commissioner for Europe, who inspected their camp. Queen Sophie then sent Dr. Theophilos Angelopoulos, an eminent sanitary expert, as her personal representative to take charge of the camp. He brought a corps of ten physicians. Until that time only one physician had administered to the thousands ill among the refugees. There had been no one to look after sanitation.

Americans Send Aid.

The American Red Cross has sent to Saloniki Col. Henry A. Shaw of the United States army medical corps, with a party of physicians and nurses to aid the Greek government in the care of the refugees. Colonel Shaw plans to gather 1,000 of the orphans in old French barracks, several miles from the present camp, where the children will be given medical attention, while food will be furnished by the Greek government. The expenses of this work will be borne by the government.

Miss Lillian Spellman, a Boston nurse, is conducting a Red Cross dispensary at the camp, where she distributes cans of milk and soon will distribute clothing to the small children. Many of the refugees were cured by priests of rich lands in Macedonia, but the majority fled from the Caucasus before the advances of the Bolshevik and the Turkish nationalists under Kemal Pasha.

1,000 Die in Month.

The 20,000 are huddled together in barracks which were not intended to hold half that number. A Red Cross inspector who visited the camp reports that disease such as typhus, dysentery and influenza is prevalent and that more than 1,000 of the refugees died within a month.

The Greek governor, General Zaitzis, is in despair for he expects 15,000 additional refugees to arrive soon and says that there are more than 50,000 others trying to reach Greece. The fund appropriated by the Greek government to feed, clothe and provide medical attention will be exhausted within a month, says the relief agents.

Brake Faces Stern Reality.

Charleston, W. Va.—Robert Ira Price, who thinks he would have to ask his bride to移居 to a street car, but after her Guy Coffman had performed the ceremony at the Humphrey Memorial church, the wedded party which had accompanied Price and Miss Doty Lee Webb found that someone had stolen the big tour ing car which was to carry them to the bride's home for a reception.

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